

REMARKS

Claims 1-18, 20, and 22-23 were previously pending in the application. Claims 5-6, 14-15, and 22-23 are canceled and claims 1, 13, 18, and 20 are amended herein. Assuming the entry of this amendment, claims 1-4, 7-13, 16-18, and 20 are now pending in the application. The Applicants hereby request further examination and reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and these remarks.

Claims 13 and 20 have been amended to change the word "acknowledgment" from the British to the American spelling. The American spelling of this word is now maintained throughout the claims.

In paragraph 2, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 7-10, 12, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lindskog in view of Romans. In paragraph 3, the Examiner rejected claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lindskog in view of Romans and Ho. In paragraph 4, the Examiner rejected claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lindskog in view of Romans and Lu. In paragraph 5, the Examiner rejected claims 13-14, 16-17, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lindskog in view of Ho and further in view of Lu. In paragraph 6, the Examiner objected to claims 6, 15, 22, and 23 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that those claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. For the following reasons, the Applicants submit that all pending claims are allowable over the cited references.

Amended claims 1, 13, 18, and 20 are equivalent to previously pending claims 6, 15, 23, and 22, respectively, rewritten in independent form. Since the Examiner stated that claims 6, 15, 22, and 23 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, the Applicants submit that amended claims 1, 13, 18, and 20 are allowable. It is further submitted that each of claims 2-4, 7-12, and 16-17 is allowable because each of them depends from one of allowable claims 1 and 13.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicants believe that the entire application is now in condition for allowance, and early and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Fees

During the pendency of this application, the Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment of any filing fees for presentation of extra claims under 37 CFR 1.16 and any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17 or credit any overpayment to **Mendelsohn & Associates, P.C. Deposit Account No. 50-0782**.

The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to treat any concurrent or future reply, requiring a petition for extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136 for its timely submission, as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time if not submitted with the reply.

Respectfully submitted,

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